

carrying out final annealing processing that heats the grating part to a uniform temperature for a predetermined period in order to stabilize the optical properties of the grating part. --

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If any extension of time for this response is required, applicant requests that this be considered a petition therefore. Please charge the required Petition fee to Deposit Account No. 03-1240.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess to our Deposit Account No. 03-1240.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presented herein is respectfully requested. Claims 1-7 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-4 were elected for further prosecution by the applicant in the Amendment and Response dated January 24, 2003. A marked-up version of the amended claims, entitled "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made**", is enclosed to indicate all changes made to the claims.

In the Office Action dated May 21, 2003, the pending claims 1-3 of the current application were rejected as being made obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) by